

# **FOSTER HOME LICENSING FOR RELATIVE CAREGIVERS**

Michigan Department of Human Services

Form DHS-972 is a guide for DHS and private agency caseworkers when discussing licensing with relative caregivers. This form does not replace specific licensing requirements.

## **What are the requirements for foster home licensing?**

- Home Study - A certification worker will conduct a licensing study to assess your family and to ensure that your home meets licensing standards and is a safe environment for foster children.
- Training - All adult caregivers in the household must complete a minimum of 12 hours of training before licensure. Training will be tailored to meet your needs in effectively parenting the child placed with you and at times convenient for you. Once licensed, there will be additional annual training requirements.
- Fingerprints - All caregivers living in your home will be fingerprinted to conduct a criminal history check. Other adults living in the household will have to submit to a check of Michigan State Police criminal history records. There will be a review of child abuse and neglect records for all adults living in your home. The results will be used in determining your eligibility to become licensed.
- References - You must provide references from three unrelated persons who can attest to your character and suitability for becoming a licensed foster home.
- Health of Family - All members of your household must provide medical statements as part of the licensing process.
- Discipline - Corporal punishment (any type of hitting, including spanking) may never be used with foster children, including foster children who are related to you.

## **What are the financial benefits of being licensed?**

- Foster care payments between \$398.72 and \$492.52 per month at a minimum depending on the age of the child.
- Child may be eligible for an initial clothing allowance between \$210.00 and \$500.00 depending on the age of the child.
- Child is eligible for a semi-annual clothing allowance between \$107.00 and \$122.00 depending on the age of the child.
- Holiday allowance of \$25.00 per child.
- Foster parents who provide care above and beyond what would normally be expected to meet the special needs of a child are eligible for increased daily rate payments.
- Reimbursement for tutoring, graduation expenses, and some transportation expenses if eligibility requirements met.

### What happens next?

- If you want to proceed with licensing
  - ✓ Sign the check list indicating that you wish to proceed with licensing
  - ✓ Watch the foster parent orientation video or DVD, "Foster Parenting: What Every Parent Needs to Know."
  - ✓ Expect a call from a certification worker within 2 weeks.
  - ✓ Let the certification worker know if you need help with transportation or with expenses related to becoming licensed, such as smoke alarms or carbon monoxide detectors.
- If you don't want to proceed with licensing at this time
  - ✓ If you meet licensing requirements, but still don't want to be licensed, sign the checklist and list the reason why you don't want to proceed with licensure.
  - ✓ Contact the case worker if you change your mind in the future and decide to proceed with licensure.
- If you can't be licensed because an adult living in your home doesn't meet licensing requirements, you will need to sign the checklist explaining the reason you are not eligible for licensure. An assessment of your home will be made to determine if the relative foster child can remain in your home.

Department of Human Services (DHS) will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, sexual orientation, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to a DHS office in your area.